

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**JULY 8, 2013**

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)  
Nancy Walsh  
Richard Moore  
Marie Petitti

Nick Bragano  
Lee DeFusco  
Kevin Bellows

Also,  
Park Superintendent Dmitri Paris  
Recreation Director Mary Markham

Guests:

Diane Louw, 66 Red Barn Road, Tr. Youth Field Hockey  
Mike Fedell, 117 Pinewood Trail, Sr. City League  
Phil Pacelli, 192 River Cliff Drive, Mlfd, THS Baseball Coach

Public Comments:

Diane Louw, Tr. Youth Field Hockey:

Requesting use of lower field behind Hillcrest for Field Hockey Practice Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., September through November. They are 45/50 girls in 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. They have 4/5 matches against other communities (Darian, New Canaan, Fairfield). Their fee is \$125 including uniform (\$40). They pay \$30 each for four coaches at each practice. They do background checks at \$100 each. With any funds remaining they intend to purchase two cages (goals) for the Indian Ledge Turf field.

Recreation Director said last year they were worked-in wherever we could around the High School schedule.

Mike Fedell, Sr. City League:

(Background – Torrential rains on Monday afternoon, June 18, 2013. Announcement that all grass fields were closed for play with prediction for more rain. Senior City League is a Recreation League for college age and older men. They were scheduled to play at 4:00 p.m. that day. Following many conversations with the Recreation Director their contact, Mike Fedell, was told that if he went on the field and there was any damage, his league would be responsible. Team was on the field when it rained again and then left the field; but, the field was damaged from foot use and subsequent sweeping to level the clay. Rangers observed and photographed the team attempting to disburse the water. On Tuesday morning, the field Committee Park Supt., Parks & Rec. Chairman Contract Maintenance Leadman and Recreation Director met at the field. THS athletic director had already been to the field prior to their meeting and viewed the damage. The recommended action to repair the field was to bring in more Partec and then to begin repairs. The problem was that the Partec needs to be ordered in bulk and must be paid for upfront. Due to the fiscal year end, this was impossible. Contractor Tarrantino offered to overnight a check in an effort to move things along. Cost of materials, shipping and labor was \$3,700 and Mr. Fedell was issued a bill for these costs. On Wednesday, Supt. And Rec. Director had a conference call with the Athletic Director who agreed to reimburse Tarrantino after July 1<sup>st</sup> as they would need the material after that date and a revised bill of \$1,175. was sent to Mr. Fedell because THS would have ordered materials at the begin of the new fiscal year for future use; and, therefore, Sr. City League would only be charged for the cost of labor and equipment.)

Mr. Fedell feels Sr. City League has been excessively penalized for its actions; in his mind , no permanent damage was done and they should have been charged for something the Town was going to be doing anyway. He apologized for his actions to access the field and then followed up by trying to push water around on the clay. He acknowledged he shouldn't have had the team go on the field; but, feels even the \$1,175 reduced billing is still excessive as by Wednesday of that week, once the water was absorbed and the field had been dragged, the field in his view was actually playable even though closed for play. He said clay can't be damaged from foot prints and brooms. They didn't use shovels or wheel barrows. They just pushed the clay around to move the water.

Mr. Fedell introduced Phil Pacelli, High School Baseball Coach who indicated that at the end of May, day following Memorial Day, there had been a two-day rain span and a game was played on that field. Umpires called the game. There was a lot of foot damage on the field. Following that, the Tarrantino crew, leveled off the area and dragged the field and the next day they were able to finish the game. It was not quite as wet as the pictures of this rain-event indicate; but, there was puddleling.

Upon question by Commissioner DeFusco, Mr. Fedell said they are college-age and over players with 70 percent Trumbull residents (due to grandfathering of the league). He is a volunteer and receives no compensation for his time.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Walsh, second by Mr. Moore, unanimously passed to close the guest portion of the agenda.

**MOTION** by Mr. Bragano, second by Mr. Moore, unanimously passed to approve the Minutes of the June 10, 2013, minutes as distributed.

**Old Business:**

Mr. Moore questioned if the Tr. Eagles Lacrosse team were scheduled as requested at the June meeting. Recreation Director indicated that they met the requirements of the Facilities Use Policy and were scheduled but are playing less games to save on field cost.

She noted that the Rangers questioned use by the Lacross Summer Pick-Up League who have been playing without a permit. Rangers will be instructed to follow-up by requiring a permit.

She said St. Joseph soccer and track fields were closed for repairs. Trumbull United team was looking for a Saturday scheduling at Indian Ledge Turf field which could not be met.

Trumbull Day event went well. We had rangers and superintendent at site all day. Rangers kept the traffic lanes tight right through egress. They have been billed \$3,000, for core-seeding and repair; but, field wasn't in ruin.

Sticker distribution high. Recreation Director and Superintendent are monitoring costs and will provide Commission with a review. It is expected that a nominal sticker fee to cover cost of purchase and distribution of the sticker will be required for next season.

**Tr. Youth Field Hockey:**

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mrl. Moore, unanimously passed to approve field scheduling for Trumbull Youth Field Hockey Practice, Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., September through November in compliance with the rules of the Facilities Use Policy.

Newly appointed Commissioner Lee DeFusco was welcomed to the Commission by the Chairman.

Mr. DeFusco then stated that it was his honor to be appointed to Tony Chmielewski's unexpired term stating that he had known Tony for over forty years. (Commissioner Anthony Chmielewski passed away this past month, a week following the death of his wife Norma. The Commission is deeply saddened by his and his wife's deaths.)

**CONSENSUS** of the Commission is to have a tree with a plaque planted somewhere within the parks system in honor of deceased Park Commissioner Anthony Chmielewski and his wife Norma who passed within a week of one another and who were both affiliated with the Trumbull School system for over forty-five years and Tony a member of the Park Commission since January, 1992.

Senior City League discussion:

- If a team plays on a closed field, it is at their own responsibility for any damage.
- Assessment the day following damage by Field Use Committee: Park Supt., Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman, Contract Maintenance Leadman, Recreation Director and previously that day THS Athletic Director. In order to get the field up and playable as quickly as possible the decision to order the materials immediately was agreed on.
- Rules for all leagues allow for them to make wise choices to get as much play in as possible. We make a "call" for closure; they follow this call. If field becomes playable by time-of-game, they take the responsibility to make the decision and are responsible for damage.
- Commissioner Bragano indicated he was at the site on Wednesday, two days following the incident. Field had been raked and dragged and looked marvelous.
  - Superintendent said decision to order material was made day following the damage and the league has now only been assessed for materials and resulting unscheduled labor associated with the damage to the field.
  - Commissioner Bragano felt Sr. City League was absolutely wrong in playing on the wet field but felt that the penalty is too excessive; perhaps the repair could have been held off until the new fiscal budget.
  - Superintendent explained that if they had held off until the new fiscal, the time frame is much longer working through the purchasing process for materials, delivery and ability to schedule the work. Our first priority is varsity players and then leagues. He said our responsibility for fields is that we look at weather from behind, current and ahead of it. Superintendent commented that this is a practice for all league damage to fields. Soccer and Little League have both paid for field damage this past year.
  - The Field Use Committee consisting of the Parks Superintendent, Recreation Director, THS Athletic Director and Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission deemed that the decision to assess for the damages was appropriate. We paid the cost to the Fields Contractor.

**MOTION** by Mr. DeFusco, seconds by Mr. Bragano and Dr. Bellows, that (A) We recognize Mr. Fedell, Senior City League, is a volunteer who has given a great deal of time and many, many hours for Trumbull kids and is not compensated and doing a service to Trumbull by giving time and many hours; and (B) That Mr. Fedell made a very bad judgement the evening of June 17, 2013 in doing damage to the THS field and should be penalized for the least amount we can while maintaining our integrity by charging the lowest amount we can.

Mr. DeFusco then amended his motion to include: *We recognize that the fair cost of damage is \$1,175; but Mr. Fedell under the circumstances not be forced to pay the full amount.* Both Mr. Bragano and Dr. Bellows withdrew their seconds as the amount assessed was the "fair cost of damage" and should be paid.

**NO SECOND, MOTION FAILED.**

Superintendent's Report:

- Completing repairs within our parks system.
- Pools in full swing.
- Commented on the Drew Bill Property in the Nichols section of town which was purchased by the Town but never dedicated as park land. We do the maintenance on that property. There is a barn in bad condition, a house, gardens and open space. Property is surrounded by neighborhoods. It is the target for vandalism. We are in the process of stabilizing the barn. He is suggesting that the Rangers be relocated to that location to give it more protection and the current facility on White Plains Road become a satellite station.
- Twin Brooks remediation of the meadow will begin this month. Meadow seed will be planted.
- Timer clock on the right side aeration fountain to be repaired.

Recreation Director's Report:

Department is extremely busy...they have two part-timers on.

There has been some camp site relocations because of construction and we move programs around.

Tashua pool shut down because of a vomiting incident.

Pickleball not begun on Unity tennis court because they need to get the appropriate tape for the courts.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 8:35 by Dr. Bellows, second Mr. Moore, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe  
Clerical Adm. Assistant

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